

Remarks

The Applicants have amended Claims 2 and 11 by adding the subject matter of Claim 7 with respect to the photosensitive resin layer containing a polymer selected from the group consisting of partially-saponified polyvinyl acetate, polyamide resin, polyvinyl alcohol and their modified derivatives, along with an ethylenic unsaturated compound and a photopolymerization initiator. Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claim 6 has been amended by adding the subject matter of Claim 8 with respect to the photosensitive resin printing plate material further comprising a substance transfer-preventing layer between the photosensitive resin layer and the photocoloring layer. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claim 9 has been amended to change the dependency from Claim 8 to Claim 6. Confirmation of allowance of Claims 6 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to recite that the method produces a relief printing plate. Support for this amendment may be found throughout the Specification, beginning in the first section of the Specification under the heading “Technical Field.” Claim 10 has further been amended to recite a step of forming a UV-non-transmittable image in a UV-transmittable photocoloring layer. Support may be found in the Specification on page 9 in the second full paragraph, for example.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 2 – 7 and 10 – 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102 over JP ‘670. JP ‘670 discloses a photosensitive printing plate which has an elastomeric binder essentially in a photopolymerizable layer that corresponds to the photosensitive resin layer in solicited Claims 2 – 5 and 10 – 11. The elastomeric binders of JP ‘670 are disclosed in paragraphs [0010] to [0014]. However, the photosensitive resin layer of Claims 2 – 5 and 10 – 11 does not contain the elastomeric binders.

The Official Action helpfully notes that “the photopolymerizable layer of Hiroshi et al. comprises an elastomeric binder such as vinyl acetate [0010], [0011]. It can also contain a polyacrylamide or polyvinyl alcohol [0014].” However, this is not correct. Paragraphs [0010] and [0011] explain that vinyl acetate is employed as a monomer to be co-polymerized with a conjugated-diene type hydrocarbon. Further, paragraph [0014] explains that polyacrylamide and polyvinyl alcohol are employed as a monomer to be mixed with the elastomeric binder. As a consequence, the photosensitive resin layer of Claims 2 – 5 and 10 – 11 is clearly distinguished over the photopolymerizable layer of JP ‘670. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection over JP ‘670 as it applies to Claims 2 – 5 and 10 – 11 is accordingly respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Damme. Damme generally discloses, such as in the Abstract, that an element for making a lithographic printing plate comprises a thermosensitive layer being opaque to light. However, Claim 10 relates to a method for producing a relief printing plate and has a UV-transmittable photocoloring layer. Thus, the relief printing plate of Claim 10 is clearly distinguished from the lithographic printing plate of Damme. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 10 is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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